

# The Sun

AND NEW YORK PRESS.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1919.

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Published at the Post Office at New York as  
Second Class Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

One Year, \$10.00; Six Months, \$6.00;  
Three Months, \$3.50; Single Copies, 10c.

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dustrial and commercial rivalry that is looked for in Europe.

The effect of this migration on the American labor market will certainly be interesting, and may be serious. As THE SUN has pointed out heretofore, the general assumption that after the war we shall have more workers in the United States than we need, an assumption which has been at the bottom of much heated discussion of industrial and commercial prospects, is not to be accepted without careful study. The belligerent nations of Europe have lost millions of workers who have been maimed or killed. Their places must be filled. Foreign Governments are going to discourage emigration as much as they can. This will also be the policy of the neutral nations, as has been proved by the action already taken in the Scandinavian countries.

The United States received 1,218,480 immigrants in 1914. In the four years following it received an average of only 250,000 a year, the number falling to 110,618 in 1918. Thousands of aliens quit America to serve in the armies of their countries before the United States entered the war. It should be remembered that in 1916 this country was suffering from a labor shortage in industrial districts which drew large numbers of negroes from the South to the North, and this movement is still in progress.

Previously to April, 1917, many German aliens and more than a few American citizens of German antecedents declared that as soon as they could get to Germany they would leave this country. These persons then looked forward confidently to Teutonic victory in the war. How their plans have been affected by German defeat and the overthrow of the Central Empire we shall not know until normal conditions of travel between the United States and Europe are reestablished. Probably this movement will be light, and though a Jewish State may be set up in Palestine, it is not likely to draw heavily from the Jews in this country. Nevertheless, these factors must be considered in any study of the labor situation.

The United States is at least as likely to want labor after peace is signed as it is to be troubled with a surplus of workers.

**The Mutiny.**

The mutiny of the American troops in Russia should be considered in the light of the facts which preceded it.

The United States has had about 5,000 soldiers in the Archangel district since last summer. They were sent there as a war measure against Germany, with which we were then actively at war. They were brigaded with 30,000 other troops—mainly British and French—and the purpose of this small body, about the size of an American division, was to prevent the Germans from reaching the military supplies at Kola, the most northerly Russian port on the Arctic Ocean. These supplies were sold by Americans to the old Russian regime, but were never paid for.

These 5,000 American soldiers were not regulars. They were not former National Guardsmen. The War Department chose to send to this dreariest corner of the world young men who had been chosen by the draft from Michigan towns and who had entered the war not with the fatalistic mental attitude of the professional soldier but with the spirit common to their fellows in selective service; a determination to whip the people against whom the United States of America had declared war.

Five months ago the Teutonic armies yielded. Were the Michigan soldiers, who had been holding the Murman Railway against invasion from the south, justified in thinking that their work was about done; that the war for which they had been conscripted was over? The President had said: "The war thus comes to an end." If the Michigan men felt this way they made no open sign. Perhaps they believed, with many on this side of the water, that there really was another war—that of the evil forces of Russia against America and the Entente Allies.

It doubtless occurred to the American soldiers in the Archangel district, as it occurred to a great many Americans more fortunately situated, that it was time for decision as to whether the conflict in Russia was a war or merely the neglect, not to say desertion, by Powers rich in men and munitions of the handful of troops they had sent to a strange and desolate place. THE SUN was among those who suggested that if we were, as we appeared to be, at war with the Bolsheviks, America and her Allies had better send enough men to Russia to win the war, and that if we were not going to war with the men who were shooting our soldiers we should bring our men home.

Three months ago Senator JOHNSON of California uttered a protest against the retention of our men in a country with which we were not officially at war, yet where American soldiers were being killed and captured; but nothing was done by the Administration to remedy a distressing condition. The recent report made by Sir ERNEST SHACKLETON, who investigated the situation for the British Government, confirmed the darkest fears as to the safety of the allied forces in Russia. Indeed he added the warning, to some surprise, that the coming of spring would be advantageous to the Bolsheviks rather than to the invaders or their Russian friends in the Provisional Government in the country of the North.

When the situation appeared so alarming, even at this distance, what must have been the individual feelings of the selective service men who, entering the National Army in the belief that they were going to fight

the official enemies of the United States, found themselves assigned, amid the rigors of the Arctic, to a vague defensive campaign against the foe which the Administration at home has not recognized as a foe? The Bolsheviks in Russia were and are shooting American soldiers while the Russian Bolsheviks in America mount the soap boxes and preach their vile creed without being arrested.

At the end of these chapters of official neglect comes the story of the mutiny of American soldiers, of their demand for some definite statement from Washington concerning their future. It is not surprising to read in the despatches from Archangel that there is no disposition in official circles seriously to blame the troops. It was not a mutiny against discipline or against Americanism. It was the turning of the worm against the cruel imbecility of the officials who, so far as these soldiers could see, had abandoned them to a miserable fate.

**Another Aspect of a Snub to the Seventy-seventh.**

The issue involved in the refusal of the military authorities in Washington to arrange for a parade here of the Seventy-seventh Division as an organization on its return from France is not as simple as the bureaucratic mind conceives it.

Leaving out of account entirely the natural desire of the people of New York city to see, and to show honor to, an organization peculiarly their own, the subject is worth considering in its relation to national sentiment in the future.

The War Department found it possible to arrange a parade for the Twenty-seventh, a unit which, despite replacements of drafted men, retained to the day of its dismissal from the service the character of a volunteer organization.

The Seventy-seventh is made up entirely of drafted men.

If to these men is denied the opportunity to march in triumph through their own city they and their families and friends will inevitably feel that the selective service army has been snubbed where the volunteers have been highly complimented.

They will say that despite uniform designations and uniform insignia the military authorities made a distinction between volunteers and drafted men, to the humiliation of the latter.

They will say that while drafted men were considered good enough to fight, and good enough to fill the depleted ranks of war worn Regular and National Guard divisions, they were ignored and pushed to one side when the plaudits of a grateful country were to be distributed.

What the effect of this will be if another draft is necessary is not difficult to foresee.

Instead of the cheerful acquiescence which marked the country's acceptance of the draft in the present war, there will be a feeling of resentment. Drafted men will be sullen and unwilling. They will accept their duty without enthusiasm, and the units formed from them will lack the splendid morale which so notably assisted in the training of our levies in 1917 and 1918.

It is hardly to be expected that bureaucrats will give attention to such considerations as these. But there ought to be in the Administration somewhere, in America or in Europe, at least one individual gifted with sufficient political sense to recognize these facts and clothed with enough authority to avert the blunder the War Department is obstinately now bent on making.

**Writing the War's History.**

Our friend the *Scientific American* not only wonders who will write the history of the war, but is anxious that the foundation of that great job be laid at once. It suggests that, "with a view to having the military facts presented to the world in a history of such high authority as shall silence all doubt," the Peace Conference give the assignment to the General Staff of the Entente nations to collaborate on a history. For editor of the work the *Scientific American* quite naturally suggests Professor Foch. When it uses the phrase "Entente nations" we assume that our contemporary includes the United States. That terse historian of the American operations in France—so terse that some individuals of the army mourned the non-appearance of their names—General Pershing, certainly should write a great chapter.

As for the other side of the war, the *Scientific American* believes that the German and Austrian General Staffs should be asked to contribute to the history of the operations as they saw them. That is fair and would be interesting too. The various opinions of the most prominent German Generals at the battle of the Marne on the reasons for that first and telling German defeat would be worth comparing. We assume that they would not quite agree with one another. It is a commentary on the difficulty of writing the great war's history that even now, four and a half years after the Marne, the world does not know the numerical proportions of the conflicting forces.

In a work compiled by the General Staffs of both sides the *Scientific American* believes that we should have "an ideal war history—a source book upon which individual national historians could base any works they might feel disposed to write.

Let us have the one great, official, unblasted story told by a composite group of the allied staff officers." The idea is good. If the Peace Conference finally reaches a point where it is evident that the General Staff will not have to resume its regular business of war, let Marshal Foch and his men begin upon the great literary adven-

ture. Between them and the statisticians there should be material for a set of volumes that would crowd a five hundred foot shelf; a dollar down and a dollar a week for months.

But would this be a final, conclusive work? Looking back at the experience of the civil war historians, we have doubts. Only two years ago JAMES FORD RHODES, issuing his single volume "History of the Civil War," announced that this was not an abridgment of his three volume work on the same subject, but a fresh study. Although his three volume history was not issued until 1885 and later—thirty years after Appomattox—he found that in the two decades preceding 1917 much new matter had come to light. The official records of the Union and Confederate armies, the diary of GIBSON WELLES, General Hayes's "Life of HAWLEY," JOHN HAY's letters and diaries, SCHURER's reminiscences—these were some of the fresh sources, not available until a generation after the civil war, which made the historian wish to go again over his subject.

If that was the experience of a historian who dealt with a war as much less complicated than the European war as a musket is less complex than a machine gun, what will be the situation of the historian of, say, 1945? Secret memoirs of HINDENBURG, LUDENDORF, MOLKE, the GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS; diaries made public by the heirs of CLEMENCEAU and JORIS; "hitherto undiscovered documents" hidden by Bolsheviks in Siberian cellars; "own stories" by PELOUS and FRENCH—the flood of contribution will go on for a century.

It is true, as the *Scientific American* says, that now is the time to set down the facts and theories of living men before files are mangled and notebooks faded. There is a mountain of technical matter that can be put in print. No one will guarantee that this will be read as a history. Writers of condensed histories will use them for reference, just as our own Government publications and PUTNAM's "Records of the Rebellion" are used by writers on the civil war. There will be ninety-and-nine "best histories" of the great war and seven generations will be asked to sign on the dotted line for "The only good one."

**At Luncheon.**

May we suggest, without the least personality of application, that because the American cuisine has not completely recovered from the shock of a war host may sometimes find it necessary to offer intellectual delicacies which will distract the mind of the guest from the shortcomings of the physical food?

A fine law practice with the soup, a Governorship with the entrée, perhaps a seat in the United States Senate with the dessert—what better way to keep the guest's attention from the fact that the green turtle is not perfectly clear, that the fillet might be more tender and that there is salt in the coupe St. Jacques?

The Supreme Economic Council today adopted a resolution calling the attention of the associated Governments to the extreme gravity and urgency of the present economic situation in Europe—An official announcement.

It is comforting to know that the fact is officially recognized.

Michigan Drys accused—Hotel men demand recount on beer and wine amendment—Newspaper headline.

Politics in America appears to consist largely of recounts.

There's not to question why they're not to do and die. There's not to do and die.

That may be true of the soldiers at Archangel, but somebody official at Washington had better begin "quecting why" in a hurry.

With emigration now approximately at 1,000 daily grave concern has been felt for the labor market. For reasons the immigration statistician has only to turn to the announcement of transport arrivals.

That THOMAS JEFFERSON attributed the signing of the Declaration of Independence to the influence of flies rather than to the impelling force and greatness of the document excited interest of the first magnitude when the 176th anniversary of his birth to-morrow falls in a year when matters of signatures and documents are so rife. The anecdote is credited to President JEFFERSON himself in *Harper's* for October, 1871.

"When the question of independence was before the Congress it had its meetings near a lively stable. The members wore short breeches and silk stockings, and with handkerchiefs in hand, were very dignifiedly employed in lashing the flies from their legs. So very vexatious was this annoyance and to so great a compunction did it arouse the sufferers that it hastened, if it did not aid, in inducing them to promptly affix their signatures to a great document which gave birth to an empire republic."

What is the particular insect annoyance of Paris in the springtime?

The George Washington, arriving at Rost, may feel like asking, "Now that you have my what are you going to do with me?"

The Monroe Doctrine reservation is an iron girder in a structure of wood.

Kansas Woman Earns Her Easter Bonnet.

From the *Leon Reporter*.

If Mrs. M. J. Porter should pay \$22 for a spring hat it will be nobody's business but her own, as she came by the money respectively recently, as it is in her hands. She noticed an old wolf around a tree stump, and when she investigated she found eight young wolves. She killed them all, and as she came on wolves was 24 a head, she came out ahead.

They Return From France.

From the *Levenworth Times*.

Two soldiers kissed each other when they met at the Union Station.

A Post Office Movie.

Stella—A romance?

Belia—Yes, he proposed by letter and she accepted by wire, and neither message was delivered.

**EPH SMALL THE CYNIC.**

He Finds the Man Too Fond of Humanity a Poor Provider.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: "I see," remarked Eph Small, "that Josephus says that that that covenant which President Wilson brought over with him on his last flyin' visit to the English of old New York hated the Yankees still more and adopted none of the Yankee customs."

"The parades of the 'fantastical' or 'ragamuffins' on Thanksgiving Day and target companies both had their origin in the 'General Muster' of the old militia, required by General Scott's General Regulations. Even men between 18 and 45 was required to parade for muster or pay a fine. Most business men regarded the muster as a joke of the richest kind, and appeared in Boston, New York, Pennsylvania and the middle West in all kinds of ridiculous costumes and with all sorts of ridiculous weapons, and after muster paraded around, causing roars of laughter. After our courts decided there was no militia of the State and the musters were abandoned, the custom of parading in ridiculous costumes was continued. In my boyhood the parades were usually on Guy Fawkes Day, November 5th, and on the day of the United States Constitution. Target companies originated in the same way. During the war of 1812 and until 1847 there were thousands of independent companies not part of the State Organized Militia (now National Guard), and when in 1847-48 the militia was reorganized and all efficient independent companies added to the New York State Militia, these companies left out and without standing were very indignant. Asserting their right to bear arms, they paraded as target companies, following out an old custom of the independent militia of going to the country to shoot for a living."

In my boyhood I saw at Broadbald, N. Y., a general muster, which was made the occasion of a mock parade of 'fantasticals,' and ended in general jollity. I also saw in the Seventh Ward in my boyhood hundreds of target companies, reorganized and all efficient were the former 'independents,' of the Bowers Boy type, who were known as 'Native Americans.' The great target company ever known was the Shadley Legion of Tweed's time, which paraded a thousand strong on Fifth avenue in army uniform, well drilled and well armed. This parade was regarded as a threat and deeply resented by respectable people.

It is amusing to old New Yorkers to observe how when any old New York custom is mentioned some Yankee alien comes forward and attempts to trace it back to New England. Nothing ever happened west of Connecticut worth mentioning! CHARLES S. CLARK.

New York, April 11.

**A RAINBOW OF TRIUMPH.**

More Appropriate Than an Arch for the Forty-second Division.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It appears probable now that the Forty-second, or Rainbow, Division will not parade in New York as it was intended. It looks like a poor welcome home to be given to the 168th Infantry.

If they let the Twenty-seventh and the Seventy-seventh divisions have parades why should not the Forty-second have one also, so that the people of the city can give the Rainbow Division men the credit that is coming to them?

They have been in the history Arch for the Twenty-seventh and are now building a statue of Liberty for the Seventy-seventh. What are they going to build for the Forty-second, and especially for the 168th Infantry? What I would suggest is a rainbow, the emblem of the peace, and a rainbow is a lot of people would agree with me.

Secretary Glass was trying to have the Forty-second Division parade for the coming Liberty loan; but it looks as if that was all off. I think it would help the loan a lot if this division paraded for the Liberty loan. It would be like the Twenty-seventh and Seventy-seventh and did wonderful work over there.

JOHN RAMON.

New York, April 11.

**TRADE BRIEFS.**

A concession has been granted to Antonio Amarin of America, the building of a railroad from Anapa to Oyakop, both in the State of Para, Brazil, the latter town being located on the boundaries of the French Guiana and called San Antonio.

In the first eight months of 1918 Japan imported \$180,000 worth of rivets, chiefly for use in shipbuilding.

The 1918 crop of olives in Seville, Spain, is only about 40 per cent of that gathered in 1917. Not only is the crop short, but the quality of the fruit is poor, the olives being very wormy.

Buenos Ayres, Argentina, furnishes a market for about 100,000 tons of oil, which is about 80 per cent of the entire importation of this product into Argentina.

Reports from Quebec, Canada, show that a new chocolate and candy factory has been added to the industries of that city. It is anticipated by the management that 150 varieties of chocolates, when the project is fully developed, will be produced.

The motion picture market is now very well developed in Greece, most of the films shown coming at present from Italian and French producing companies. Highly melodramatic plots are popular.

**Patriotic Purpose.**

"First Bug—Going to conserve the wheat?"

"Second Bug—Yes, I'm going to save the nation from paying for some of it."

Nevermore!

The Haven was sitting on the bust of Pallas.

"It is the last chance I'll have to go on a bust," it exclaimed.

**Study in Natural History.**

The Whale is biggest of his kind. A true amphibian, he finds, who lives in the water and on land.

He swallows slugs more than what may, from prophetic others cast away. To smaller fish that round him play.

And while he travels round about in time of joy or time of doubt, his occupation is to sport.

MELANDELLER WILSON.

**Why Not Have the Two Mayors Debate the Subject?**

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Shall I say that New York has nothing on Chicago, or that Chicago has nothing on New York? CHARLES R. SKINNER.

ALBANY, April 11.

**RAGAMUFFINISM.**

A Survival of the General Muster of the Old Militia.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The habit of dressing up and parading on Thanksgiving Day has nothing whatever to do with the visit of the Indians to the Puritans. The Dutch Americans of old New York hated the Yankees, and the English of old New York hated the Yankees still more and adopted none of the Yankee customs.

"The parades of the 'fantastical' or 'ragamuffins' on Thanksgiving Day and target companies both had their origin in the 'General Muster' of the old militia, required by General Scott's General Regulations. Even men between 18 and 45 was required to parade for muster or pay a fine. Most business men regarded the muster as a joke of the richest kind, and appeared in Boston, New York, Pennsylvania and the middle West in all kinds of ridiculous costumes and with all sorts of ridiculous weapons, and after muster paraded around, causing roars of laughter. After our courts decided there was no militia of the State and the musters were abandoned, the custom of parading in ridiculous costumes was continued. In my boyhood the parades were usually on Guy